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Melanie DeVries* (s-mdevrie4@math.unl.edu), Department of Mathematics, 203 Avery Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0130. *Unknotting Moves of Virtual Knots*. Preliminary report.

Virtual knot theory is an extension of knot theory originated by Lou Kauffman that gives a framework to study knots embedded in spaces of higher genus and examine the field in a more purely combinatorial sense. Unknotting moves - operations that can transform any knot into the unknot - have been a subject of interest in classical knot theory for many years as they can help create and calculate invariants. As every knot is a virtual knot, virtual knot theory gives us avenues to find new unknotting moves through combinatorial rather topological proofs. This poster will look at some unknotting moves of virtual knots and how to find them. (Received August 17, 2012)